

Vol. 47, NO. 40 Published in the interest of Fort Huachuca personnel and their families October 11, 2001

Sports reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil website: huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

On-post hunting resumed

On-post hunting has resumed, however participants must adhere to the following:

Hunters must be military members, retirees or family members with ID cards only. Participants must declare a weapon(s) when entering post. Weapon(s) cannot be loaded, ammunition must be kept separate from the weapon, it must be out of reach, and cannot be concealed.

AD pregnant PT resumes

Active-duty pregnant physical training resumes at Barnes Field House on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 a.m. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Heather Debe at 533-5113.

Haunted House open at mall

The Fraternal Order of Police and Firefighters Halloween Haunted House is scheduled the following dates and times at The Mall at Sierra Vista:

Oct. 13, 5-9 p.m.; Oct. 14, 2-6 p.m.; Oct. 19, 6-9 p.m.; Oct. 20, 5-9 p.m.; Oct. 21, 2-6 p.m.; Oct. 26, 6-9 p.m.; Oct. 27, 5-9 p.m.; Oct. 28, 2-6 p.m.; Oct. 29, 6-9 p.m.; Oct. 30, 6-9 p.m.; and Oct. 31, 4-9 p.m.

Admission is \$1. Children under 5 get in free.

Greyt Greyhound Feast

The Greyhound Adoption League will host the Greyt Greyhound Feast at 6 p.m., Saturday at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 156 West Kayetan Dr., Sierra Vista.

The Greyt Greyhound Feast is a medieval celebration of the most regal and royal Greyhound. This event is open to all Greyhound owners, lovers of Greyhounds, members of the Barony March of Mons Tonitrus and other representatives of the Society for Creative Anachronism, our special guests. All proceeds will benefit the Greyhound Adoption League to defray costs associated with rescuing the Greyhounds. Cost is \$20 per person. For more information, call Dave Breen at 378-1763.

Reptile program Sunday

Tom Miscione, a local authority on the unique amphibians and reptiles of Cochise County, will present a repeat of his popular program, "Snakes Alive and Others, Too!" on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Carr House. During this program see live specimens up close and handle if you dare! This indoor program is designed for the entire family, and is the final Carr House program offered this season. After Carr House closes on Oct. 14, it will not reopen until mid-April, 2002. Carr House is located approximately two miles up Carr Canyon Road. Carr Canyon Road is located immediately before the Mesquite Tree Restaurant on the west side of South Highway 92 in Hereford.

Annual biker rodeo

The Southern Arizona Harley Riders 7th Annual Biker Rodeo is set for Oct. 19-20 at Arena Bar in Benson. Sign-in is 1-10 p.m., Oct. 19 and 8 a.m., Oct. 20. Entry fee is \$10 per person, or \$9 with an AMA card. Free camping and secure motorcycle parking with admission. All makes and models of motorcycles are invited. There will be a live band, bike games, bull riding, kid's games, vendors and much more. For more information, call Smokey at 439-5253 or 803-6856. Or visit www.sahr.org.

Myer conducts 5th bicycle rodeo

Sgt. Sharron L. Stewart Scout Staff

During Oct. 3-4, 600 fourth and fifth grade students at the General Myer Elementary School participated in the 5th Annual Bicycle Rodeo.

Dianna Beatty, Myer school counselor, said she came up with the idea for the rodeo because she wanted children to be reminded about bicycle safety. "The kids had a good time and they learned a lot," Beatty said.

The event featured six stations and was held in the school's parking lot. Students were taught about the proper wear and fit of bicycle helmets, what type of clothing to wear while riding a bicycle, how to treat pedestrians in a crosswalk, how to react at a traffic accident, hand signals and had to navigate an obstacle course. There was even a station that conducted minor bike repairs free of charge by M&M Cy-

The post D.A.R.E officer participated as well as members of Myer faculty and the Fort Huachuca Fire Department.

Beatty said another rodeo will be conducted



Spc. Wesley Belchermakes sure a student comes to a complete stop.

Staff Sgt. James Erickson, the Fort Huachuca D.A.R.E. officer checks to see that Maria Bowman's helmet fits properly.



Fort Huachuca Fire Department Engineer Carl Cheatum explains to rodeo participants the proper way to yield pedestrians in a cross walk.

USA leads medal count in CAT games

By Paula J. Randall Pagán

Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. — The United States won 116 of the 192 medals awarded in the Championship of the Americas Games held at Fort Benning, Ga., Oct. 1 to 7.

USA shooters took home 64 Gold, 40 Silver and 12 Bronze Medals from the competition, more than three times as many as any other country. Canada finished second in the competition, winning 27 medals and Guatemala was third with 13 medals.

More than 230 athletes from 13 countries competed in the Championship of the Americas - called the CAT Games. Originally, nearly 400 people from two dozen countries were scheduled to compete. However, because of the terrorist activities of Sept. 11, many countries were unable to send participants.

The CAT Games were hosted by the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit and sponsored by USA Shooting, the national governing body for Olympic shooting sports in the United States.

"On behalf of USA Shooting, we thank the countries as well as all of the athletes and officials who participated in the 2001 Shooting Championships of the Confederation of the Americas de Tiro," USA Shooting Secretary General Bob Mitchell told the crowd at the Oct. 7 closing ceremonies.

"This competition had special challenges resulting from the terrorist activities of Sept. 11th. It was through the work and cooperation of many people that travel to Columbus (Ga.) was pleasant and access to Fort Benning was convenient. We thank the United States Army Marksmanship Unit for providing the ranges and assistance in conducting the competition."

The CAT Games, Campeonato de Tiro de las Americas, are the shooting championships for the Western Hemisphere, and are conducted every four years. CAT is one of four big international matches — along with the Olympics, World Championships and Pan-American Games — where shooters can win

medals and set world records. At the CAT Games, members of the U.S. Shooting Team compete against teams from Canada, Mexico, Central America and South America for the title of being the best in the Americas.

The following nine U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit soldiers won medals at this year's **CAT Games:**

Spc. Shane M. Barnhart — individual Silver Medal and team Gold Medal, Air Rifle; and individual Bronze Medal and team Gold Medal, 300-Meter Standard Rifle.

Sgt. Jason A. Parker — individual Silver Medal and team Gold Medal, Three-Position Free Rifle.

Capt. Glenn A. Dubis — individual and team Gold Medals, 300-Meter Standard Rifle; and individual Silver Medal and team Gold Medal, 300-Meter Prone Rifle.

Maj. Michael E. Anti — individual Silver Medal and team Gold Medal, Three-Position Free Rifle; and team Gold Medal, Free Rifle Prone.

Sgt. 1st Class Daryl L. Szarenski — individual Silver Medal and team Gold Medal, Air Pistol; individual Silver Medal and team Gold Medal, Center Fire Pistol; and individual Silver Medal and team Gold Medal, Standard

Sgt. Armando R. Ayala — individual Gold Medal, 50-Meter 30+30 Running Target; individual Silver Medal and team Gold Medal, 10-Meter Mixed Running Target; individual Silver Medal and team Gold Medal, 50-Meter Mixed Running Target; and individual Bronze Medal and team Gold Medal, 10-Meter 30+30 Running Target.

Sgt. 1st Class Lance D. Dement — individual Silver Medal, 50-Meter 30+30 Running Target; and individual Bronze Medal and team Gold Medal, 50-Meter Mixed Running

Sgt. 1st Class James T. Graves — individual Silver Medal and team Gold Medal. Skeet.

Staff Sgt. Joseph D. Buffa — team Gold Medal, Skeet.

Besides winning most of the medals, the U.S. Team also set several world records in the competition. The rifle team of Dubis, Barnhart and retired Maj. Stephen C. Goff not only won the Gold Medal in the 300-Meter Standard Rifle Match, but they also broke the world record by 11 points. Dubis also set a new world record for his individual Gold-Medal-winning score. The Three-Position Free Rifle Team score of Parker, Anti and civilian Matt Emmons exceeded the world's



Spc. Shane Barnhart of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit shoots to take the silver medal in the CAT Air Rifle Championship.



October: Domestic Violence Prevention Month

MWR Release

In recognition of October as Domestic Violence Prevention Month, Fort Huachuca Family Advocacy Program will sponsor the following events:

Domestic Violence Prevention Classes

Oct. 28, at 1 p.m. Thursday, Monday, Oct. 22, at 6 p.m. Oct. 25, at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m. Monday,

Classes are presented at Army Community Service Conference Room, Bldg. 50010.

For more information call 533-2330/6873.





United We God Bless America!

MWR facilities operational status as of Oct. 11

Due to current situation on Fort Huachuca these days and hours of operation are subject to change, therefore we recommend that you call the facility to verify

nd that you call the facility to verify.				
	Facility Army Lodging	Phone # 533-2222	Facility Hours 24 hours, 7 days	
Recreatio	on Services Division (RSD)			
	Jeannie's Diner	533-5759	MonThur. 6:30 a.m9 Fri. 6:30 a.m1 a.m. Sat. 8:30 a.m10 p.m. Sun. 12 p.m7:30 p.m.	
	MWR Box Office	533-2404	MonFri. 9 a.m5 p.m	1.
	Barnes Field House	533-5031	MonFri. 5:30 a.m6:3 Sat./Sun. 10 a.m4 p.r.	-
	Pool	533-3858	MonFri. 5:30 a.m1 p Sat. 10 a.m2 p.m. Sun. Closed	o.m.
	Eifler Fitness Center	533-4723	Mon Fri. 5 a.m10 p. Sat. 5 a.m8 p.m. Sun. 9 a.m8 p.m.	.m.
	MWR Arts Center	533-2015	TueThur. 12 p.m8 p Fri., Sat. 9 a.m5 p.m. SunMon. Closed	
	MWR Rents	533-6707	Mon., Tue., Thur., Fri., Wed., Sun. Closed	Sat. 10 a.m6 p.m.
	Desert Lanes	533-2849	Mon. –Thur. 11 a.m10 p.m. Fri. 11 a.m1:30 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m11 p.m. Sun. 12 p.m8 p.m.	
	Sportsman's Center	533-7085	WedFri. 11 a.m6 p.m. SatSun. 10 a.m5 p.m. MonTue. Closed	
	RPM	538-2155	Mon. 10 a.m5 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m7 p.m. Wed. Closed	ThurFri. 10 a.m7 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m6 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m4 p.m.
Out Rea	ch Services Registration Office	533-0738 (in Murr)	MonFri6:30 a.m4 p.	m Sat. 9 a.m 2 p.m Sun.

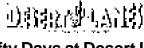
Out Reach Services Registration Office 533-0738 (in Murr) Mon.-Fri .6:30 a.m.-4 p.m. - Sat. 9 a.m-.2 p.m. - Sun. closed. The office is open extended hours to offer services for registration, turning in immunization & health assessments. Child & Youth Services (covers children 6 wks to 18 yrs of age)Call 533-5209 for care early morning or after 5:30 p.m.

(0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0)	113 00 10 313 01 480,04110	see easy for care carry morning or arrest even point.	
CDC (Registered children only)	533-5209	5 a.m. only by special request Mon Fri. 5:30 a.m5:30 p.m. SatSun. Closed	
SAS	538-1198	MonFri. 5:30-8 a.m. and 2-6 p.m. Sat Sun. Closed School Holidays 5:30-6:30 p.m.	
Middle School Program	538-1198	MonFri. after school until 6-10 p.m.	
Youth Center (Open Rec)	533-3205	Fri. 6-10 p.m. Sat. 1-10 p.m. Sun. 1-6 p.m.	
Business Operations Division (BOD)	700 0000	•	
La Hacienda *Bingo	533-3802	MonFri. 11 a.m1:30 p.m. Tue., Thur., Sat. 6-9 p.m. Sun.12-4 p.m.	
*Mountain View Golf Cour	se 533-7088	6:30 a.m7 p.m. Seven days a week	
Buffalo Corral	533-5220	Rentals WedSun. 9 a.m4 p.m. Private mount MonFri. 8:30 a.m5:30 p.m.	
LakeSide	533-2193	Administration open, MonFri. 8 a.m5 p.m.	
Carlson Wagon- Lit	515-0914	Mon Fri. 8 a.m5 p.m.	
ADCO	538-1286	MonFri. 7:30 a.m4:15 p.m.	
NAF Personnel	533-5453	MonWed. & Fri. 7:30 a.m4 p.m. Thur. 8:30 a.m4 p.m.	
Plans & Resources	533-5324	Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m5 p.m.	
ACS	533-2330	Mon Fri. 7:30 a.m4:30 p.m.	
Murr Community Center	533-4823	Mon Fri. 7 a.m4:30 p.m.	

* Open with restrictions: Bingo restrictions-Open to authorized users only, no guest or general public. Mountain View Golf Course restrictions-No one my drive a golf cart from off post, (carts may be brought in on a trailer). Not open to the general public.

Huachuca Morale, Welfare & Recreation U

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare & Recreation is responsible for content appearing on the MWR page in The Fort Huachuca Scout. Questions about this section should be directed to MWR Marketing Director, Paula German at 538-0836 or send an e-mail to germanp@huachuca-emh1.army.mil



Nifty Fifty Days at Desert Lanes

Join in the fun at Desert Lanes Bowling Center on Sunday, October 21 for Nifty Fifty Days! From noon until 5 p.m. enjoy sodas for 50 cents, hotdogs for 50 cents, games for 50 cents and shoes for 50 cents. For more information call Randy at 533-2849.

SP@RTSMAN'S **CENTER** 533-7085

October- Last night of paintball

Oct. 26: Night Paintball 7pm-Midnight Remember that Oct. 26 is the last night of paintball for this year, so don't miss it! For more information call 533-7085.

Is your child's safety seat properly installed?

Have you ever thought you needed a degree in engineering to install your child's safety seat in your car? Did you know that four out of five car seats are misused in some way? Have you ever wondered why the shoulder portion of the safety belt rides acrross your six year olds neck? Are you a parent or caregiver who would like to ensure your child always rides in your automobile in the safest possible manner? Then we have the answers for you. The Family Advocacy Program at Army Community Service now has two trained car seat technicians certified by the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA), who can, by appointment, help you properly install your child's safety seat. Appointments are scheduled on Wednesday afternoons. Plan on spending at leat 30 minutes per car seat. To schedule an appointment call ACS at 533-2330.

Beauty and the Beast on Ice

MWR Box Office will have tickets available for Disney's Beauty and the Beast on Ice. Tickets go on sale now. The show will be on October 11 through the 14.

Ticket prices range from \$13 to \$36. Stop by the MWR Box Office, bldg. 52008 on the corner of Arizona and Hatfield Streets or call 533-2404 for more information.



\$10 off all boat rentals in October

Stop by the MWR Rents, building 70914 at the corner of Irwin and Carter and rent any boat in the month of October and receive \$10 off. For more information call 533-6707.



Track construction dates Wed., Oct. 27 - Nov. 7 - No Use

Mon., Oct. 29 - Lay New Surface, No Use Mon., Nov. 8 Open for Business For more information call 533-5031.

Smith Middle School Cougars play final game of season at home

By Sgt. Sharron L. Stewart Scout Staff

On Oct. 1, coached by Bruce Busbea and Roxanne Zamarripa the Smith Middle School sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade girls ended their volleyball season by playing Sierra Vista Middle School on home turf.

The final score for the sixth-grade team was 15-12 and 15-11 in favor of Sierra Vista Middle School.

The seventh-graders lost 15-12 in favor of Smith Middle School but managed to win 15-7 during the second match. The final outcome was 15-12 in favor of Sierra Vista Middle School.

The eighth graders won the first decision 15-11 but lost the second match 15-9.

The final game was won 15-13 in favor of Smith Middle

Busbea, head coach and eighth grade math teacher, and Zamarripa characterized this season as a building year for the girls' volleyball teams at Smith Middle School. They felt like the sixth graders learned the rules of volleyball, the fundamentals of underhand serving, forearm passing, and setting the ball. The seventh graders improved on their skills and most have added an overhand serve to their game. The eighthgrade team has built on those skills and have incorporated skillful spikes and blocks.

"The hard work done by team members has begun to pay dividends and victories are becoming more frequent as we near the end of the season. We have had a great year and expect next year to be even better," said Jackie Bradley, Smith Middle School eighth-grade language arts teacher.



Cougars expect an even better year to come next year.

Third annual MI Heritage Run set

By Tanja M. Linton

Media Relations Officer

The 111th Military Intelligence Brigade sponsors the third annual Military Intelligence Heritage Run SaOct. 27, at 8 a.m.

The run is meant to foster competition, observe Fort Huachuca's historic areas, and provide a fun event for everyone to participate in.

The 10K route is USA Track and Field Certified for accuracy. The run starts and finishes at Brown Parade Field, after winding through the most historic and scenic areas of Fort Huachuca.

Early registration cost is \$1, or \$9 for a long sleeve MI Heritage Run T-shirt. After Oct. Monday, the registration fee will be \$12.

There are trophies for the top male and female finishers, and trophies to first, second, and third place finishers in seven different age divisions: 14 and under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and over.

The run will also feature a unit/team 10K race starting at 8 a.m. in which four males and one female start and finish the 10K while carrying their unit guide-on. There will be a 3K Fun Run/Walk starting at 9 a.m., finish line refreshments, and the 36th Army band will play from 9-10 a.m. The MI Heritage Run will conclude with an awards ceremony on Brown Parade Field at 10 a.m.

Register at Barnes Field House or Eifler Gym at Fort Huachuca. On-line registration is available at www.active.com. For more information call 520-533-3993/2089.

Pools now opened during heightened security

By Spc. Jessica Espinosa

Scout Staff

Fort Huachuca took over full control of its pools as of Oct. 1 to better ensure service during times of heightened security to military members and their family.

Pools are now only opened to authorized Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons and are free of charge.

The pools hours will run from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. The pools will be closed on Sundays.

One lifeguard manager and four lifeguards will be on site during operating

hours. Lifeguard qualifications include Water Safety Instructor certified, Basic Red Cross Lifeguard certified, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation certified.

"Due to the heightened security measures the general public does not have free access to the installation, therefore the memorandum of agreement initially signed with Sierra Vista cannot be fulfilled, so Fort Huachuca has taken over," said Lewis Onley Jr., who is the chief of recreation services division. "Now the pool can operate despite the heightened security levels. MWR patrons can expect, should we go to higher security again, that the pool would remain open if it is deemed appropriate."

Though the pools will no longer be opened to the local community, a memorandum of agreement has been signed with Buena High School to allow the swim team to continue to practice on post.

The pool will only remain open for the remainder of October. In November renovations will be done to better improve the existing condition of the pool, Onley said. Renovations may last up to one month.

Though all lifeguard positions are currently filled, lifeguards looking for summer jobs can contact the Nonappropriated Fund Civilian Personnel Office 533-5278.

Army Ten-Miler, AUSA meeting canceled due to ongoing missions

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — This year's Army Ten-Miler Race scheduled for Oct. 14 and the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting slated to start Oct. 15, both slated to have been held in Washington, have been canceled.

In light of the ongoing operations, and plans being developed for the "War on Terrorism," it has become impractical, if not impossible, for the Army to support the largest gathering of the Army family at the annual AUSA meeting in Washington, according to an AUSA press release.

The decision to cancel both events was made in conjunction with senior Army leadership discussions.

Retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan, AUSA president, stated that it was imperative that there be no distraction for Army leaders as the execution of "Operation Enduring Freedom" continues and enters a new phase for America's Army.

Instead, the Association's full focus and energy will be in support of the troops and families from the Army and the other services in this campaign, he said.

"We hope that all our runners will understand our support of Operation Enduring Freedom, our heightened awareness of the current situation, and our concern for the security of everyone associated with the race," said Jim Vandak, Army Ten-Miler director. "This move also allows the U.S. Military District of Washington to concentrate its soldiers and resources on supporting Operation Enduring Freedom."

(Editor's note: compiled from Military District of Washington and Association of the *U.S. Army press releases.*)

Have we got news for you!

Read it online, click on huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

Showings

Cochise Theater brings blockbusters to soldiers, families

The Cochise Theater movie prices are \$3 Saturday for adults and \$1.50 for children, except on Wednesdays and Thursdays, when all admission is only 99 cents. All movies will be showing at 7 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.

Today Summer Catch

Starring Freddie Prinze Jr. and Jessica Biel. Tenley, a wealthy girl (Jessica Biel) on a summer vacation with her parents on Cape Cod, falls for a local boy from a working class family. Ryan, (Freddie Prinze) who is a pitcher for Boston College, dreams of becoming a big-time baseball star.

The movie is rated PG-13 and has some sexual content, language and some drinking. The movie is 108 minutes long.

Friday Rat Race

Starring Whoopi Goldberg and John Cleese. In Las Vegas, six people participate in a human rat race. Two million dollars is in a duffel bag in a locker in Silver City, New Mexico, 700 miles away. The first one there keeps it all. What they don't' know is that their every move is being tracked y gamblingcrazed high rollers who are betting on the outcome.

The movie is rated PG-13 with some sexual references, crude humor, partial nudity and language.

The movie is 112 minutes long.

Captain Correlli's Mandolin

Starring Nicholas Cage and Penelope Cruz. In 1941, during World War II and the Italian occupation of Greece, a love begins uneasily between an Italian officer and a Greek villager. The violent realities of warfare threaten the tender connection that has grown between the two. Based opon the novel by Louis De Berniere, Captain Correlli's Mandolin is an epic love story that is set on the Greek movie is rated R and has some violence, sexuisles during World War II. Nicolas Cage stars as the leader of the Italian forces who falls in love with a beautiful local girl, Pelagia(Penelope Cruz), who is engaged to Mandras(Christian Bale), a local fisherman who recently left the island to join the Greek partisans. As the war grows ever closer, Antonio and Pelagia are forced to choose between their allegiance to their countries and the love they feel for one another—a love which must overcome tremendous odds, and endure the inevitable sacrifice which accompanies eternal devotion. This



Penelope Cruz and Nicholas Cage in Universal's Captain Correll's Mandolin.

ality and language. The movie is 129 minutes long.

Sunday Captain Correlli's **Mandolin**

Starring Nicholas Cage and Penelope

Wednesday **Rat Race**

Starring Whoopi Goldberg and John Cleese.

Oct. 14 Captain Correlli's **Mandolin**

Oct. 19 The Musketeer

Starring Justin Chambers and Catherine Deneuve. D'Artagnan and his fellow Musketeers are poised for battle. These legendary men of action are sworn to fight duels and right wrongs. The Musketeers are not only defying the powers that be in the 17th century France, they are also defying gravity. This movie is rated PG-13 and has intense action violence and some sexual material. The movie is 129 minutes long.

Deadline for all-Army registration approaches

Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- Soldiers interested in being considered for Morale, Welfare, and Recreation all-Army boxing and wrestling trial camps must submit applications to their installation sports offices by Nov. 5. Women are also encouraged to apply for both sports.

For women boxers, the weight classes range from 95-pound featherweights to the 201-pound super heavy-weights.

Weight classes for women wrestlers range from 101.25 pounds to 165 pounds. Although there has never been an Armed Forces Wrestling championship for women, women from the Marine Corps have wrestled in the national championships.

Female soldiers will participate in both boxing and wrestling as long as they have an opponent in their weight class from one of the other services. Since the number of slots available for women is yet to be determined, all interested women should submit an application.

The All-Army Boxing Trial Camp is scheduled for Jan. 4 - Feb. 10, 2002, at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. The Army box-off will be held Jan. 22-25. The All-Army Wrestling Trial Camp will be held Feb. 4 - Mar. 27, 2002, with the Army championships set for Mar. 1-2.

Interested soldiers must submit a Department of the Army form 4762-R, Athlete's Application, through their installation sports offices.

Soldiers' participation is contingent upon their commanders' approval and release. The Army sports program is a Morale, Welfare and Recreation activity of the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

This story was submitted out of the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office.

Soldier Show mission takes on new meaning

By Harriet Rice Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Members of the United States Army Soldier Show were shaken by the events of Sept. 11, but the show — a 90-minute, Broadway-style, high-energy song and dance review — goes on.

Sleepy-eyed soldiers were just waking up the morning after their second show at Fort Irwin, Calif. It was their 34th stop on their 2001 tour that originated in May at Fort Belvoir, Va. It was 6 a.m. Some soldiers turned on the TV.

"My roommate usually never turns on the TV, but for some reason that day she turned it on. I couldn't believe what I was seeing," said Spc. Leigha Stackpole, who is stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., and calls New Haven, Conn., home. "I thought it was a bomb, and I was really scared."

"The first thing I saw was the World Trade Center. It was smoking, and it hadn't collapsed yet," recalled Spc. Amy Pedilla, the show's video technician and production stage manager from Galesburg, Ill.

Then came the news about the Pentagon attack.

"First, when they said a plane had crashed into the Pentagon, it was like 'Oh, that's terrible.' Then we realized another plan had crashed into the towers and we realized that this was really happening," Pedilla said.

By 8 a.m. all the soldiers boarded their bus for the 345-mile ride north to Monterey, Calif.

"We were all tuned in and listening to the radio the whole time," said Spc. Aretha Grayson, an Alexandria, Va., native stationed at Fort Lee, Va. "We kept updated on all the accounts of what was happening and the progress of the rescue attempts and all. And, you know, we just knew that even more so we had a mission that we had to accomplish."

But when the soldiers arrived at the Presidio of Monterey, officials had cancelled their show because of heavy security. Although the soldiers were disappointed, the break gave everyone a chance to deal with thoughts and emotions. Many turned to the solace of the famous scenic Pacific coastline to

calm their thoughts.

"I think it's a horrible situation the nation's going to have to go through," said Spc. James Pittman, audio engineer and native of Los Alamos, N.M. "I had the opportunity to take time away to be by myself, and that's exactly what I needed to be able to get my head right."

Military discipline was maintained. "I called a formation and gave them a reality check," said Sgt. 1st Class Angel Torres, the show's noncommissioned officer in charge. "We are soldiers and we have a mission," he said. "Even though we're performing right now, at any moment we could go from a microphone to having a weapon in our hands."

Every day, regardless of their geographic location, Torres accounts for every soldier to the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, the Alexandria, Va.-based agency responsible for Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"I have to brief force protection and accountability and protect our belongings. We're on the road, but we could be a target, like anybody else," Torres said.

The "belongings" include stage and trusses, more than 100 theater lights, audio and lighting consoles, speakers, and at least four miles of cable - 15 tons transported in an 18-wheel tractor trailer by a team of soldier-drivers.

After a two-day bus ride to Washington state, the troupe arrived at Fort Lewis ready to perform for the first time a week after the attack. With Lee Greenwood's God Bless the USA, the National Anthem and God Bless America added to the show, soldiers took to the stage with new inspiration and motivation. "Everything seemed to mean a little bit more. The words to the songs rang true, and for the first time, I felt like I was really representing the United States Army and not just performing," said Stackpole.

Tears flowed freely in the flag-waving crowd during the patriotic finale. "That was one of their best shows," Torres said. "They knew that they were needed more than ever. It's like a therapy. We help [the audiences] emotionally, you know - to smile just for one day and get back to a normal life."